threshold concepts in information literacy

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Authority is Constructed and Contextual
70 students

34 = control

36 = experimental
1. Who is the probable audience for this source? How does this affect your decision to use this as a source?

2. Discuss the author’s authority/credibility. How does this affect your decision to use this as a source?

3. What is the intent of the source (i.e., to persuade...)? How does this affect your decision to use this as a source?

4. Would you use this source for a research paper? Why or why not? If so, what might it be a good source for?

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Q1: What is the probable audience? How does this affect use?

No significant differences between groups

No significant differences between source type
Q2: Discuss the author’s authority/credibility? How does this affect use?

No significant differences between groups

All groups scored higher in evaluation of journal than other source types
Q3: What is the intent of the author? How does this affect use?

- No significant differences between groups
- All groups scored lower in evaluation of blog compared to other sources
Q4: Would you use this source for a research paper? Why or why not?

Sig. difference between control and experiment

All groups scored higher in evaluation of blog compared to other sources
“conflation of personal interest vs scholarly value”

“experience as authority”

“misunderstanding of scholarly audience”
"No [I wouldn’t use it] because it isn’t a professional source.” (C)

"Too biased because he is a professor writing about students…”(E)

"[Intent is] to talk shit about professors and provide baseless conjecture…normal activist bullshit.” (C)

"Biased because she is an activist; more opinion than fact.” (E)

"Someone who went through what I’m writing about.” (C)

“Something you’d share on Facebook, not a research paper.” (E)